

contributions and his attentiveness to these measures, three measures previously that we passed and H.R. 79 that is now up for consideration. I certainly thank the ranking Democrat on this side of the aisle, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER].

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that this is the first opportunity that the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], the chairman of the subcommittee, has had to manage these four pieces of legislation, and I want to add my commendation to the gentlewoman for her leadership and certainly for successfully bringing these four pieces of legislation to fruition. Certainly I have a very strong feeling that it will have the support of our colleagues here on the floor of the House.

Again, I commend the gentlewoman for her fine leadership in bringing these pieces of legislation for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] for his fine comments and also thank him for his time and his efforts in helping our committee be successful in ushering these bills through. Without his good work, it could not have happened.

I also want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY], our ranking minority member, for his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 79, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1019, H.R. 1020, H.R. 1439, H.R. 79, the bills just passed, and on H.R. 1420, considered earlier.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. STEARNS] at 5 o'clock p.m.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1420, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1420, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 1, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

YEAS—407

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Archer
Armey
Baesler
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bilely
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Bunning
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Clay
Clement
Clyburn

Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dellums
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dingell
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Filner
Flake
Foglietta
Foley
Forbes
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost

Galleghy
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrist
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hansen
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski

Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Molinaro
Mollohan
Moran (KS)

Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Parker
Pascrell
Pastor
Paxon
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riggs
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryun
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano

Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stupak
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—26

Andrews
Bachus
Barton
Bilbray
Blagojevich
Clayton
DeFazio
Dicks
Dixon

Doggett
Ensign
Farr
Ford
Furse
Hilleary
Hunter
Lantos
Lewis (CA)

Payne
Pickering
Rohrabacher
Sanford
Schiff
Smith, Linda
Stump
Thompson

□ 1735

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, due to a delay in the flight from my congressional district, I was unavoidably detained and thus was unable to vote on rollcall vote 156. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately my plane was delayed and I missed the vote on H.R. 1420, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. Had I been here to vote, I would have supported the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, today due to a death in my family and missed the following vote:

Rollcall vote No. 156, passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (H.R. 1420). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1438

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 1438.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 84. Concurrent Resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) "A concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002," and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon and appoints Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XX and at the direction of the Committee on the Budget, I move to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In an effort to try to move this along, Mr. Speaker, there really is not a reason, I do not believe, to get into any kind of protracted debate or discussion here. This is just no more than an effort to go to a conference, a conference that I have labeled the fait accompli conference.

There is not a whole lot that has to be done. We have an agreement between the administration and the Congress of the United States, and frankly we ought to get about it. We ought to get it done this week, which we will get done this week.

Just in a nutshell, I think we do need to know that this will provide for us the first balanced budget since 1969, since Neal Armstrong walked on the Moon. It will be the largest amount of entitlement savings. It will be the first balanced budget since 1969. It would also contain over the next decade about \$700 billion in savings in mandatory spending, including very significant reforms of Medicare. The Medicare savings will be approximately the same amount of savings that the Republicans proposed in 1995.

It will also have some structural changes. It is not just about dollars. There will be some adjustment between the rural and urban reimbursements as part of the ability to give our senior citizens more choice.

Furthermore, it will now begin to pay the skilled nursing facilities and home health care providers a prospective amount, similar to how the hospitals work, in an effort to try to contain the costs of Medicare. We think these are obviously significant, combined with the fact that the shift of home health care from part A to part B will be kept in the premium, which will mean that beneficiaries in fact will bear a part of the burden, with the poorest beneficiaries continuing to have some relief.

It is a structural change of Medicare with far more yet to come, and we will be unrelenting in the idea of developing ultimately a voucher program for

Medicare that will keep it sound during the period of time when the baby boomers start to retire.

But what is also contained in this budget resolution is an agreement to fundamentally have growth in the non-defense discretionary programs, the programs that operate the agencies and departments of the Federal Government. They will grow at a rate of about half a percent a year, as compared to a 6-percent growth over the last 10 years.

Frankly, I am still checking the numbers, but I believe this will be the smallest level of growth in nondefense discretionary spending that we have seen at least over the last 10 years, and we are going back to find out if it may be the smallest level of growth that we have ever seen; significant progress.

Let me also suggest the economic foundation of this program. It is interesting to note that during the Reagan years, the Reagan economic plan was underlaid by a growth in the economy that forecast somewhere in the vicinity of 4.3 to 4.4 percent. That is a growth rate we dream about today and we would hope to achieve, but not one that has been achieved for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, contained in this agreement is not a 4.4-percent projection of economic growth that would make it somewhat unrealistic. What is contained in this agreement is a 2.1-percent economic growth pattern. As we all know, the economy in this last quarter has grown at about 5.6 percent. Certainly we will not achieve those levels of growth in this agreement, but what is important to note is that 2.1-percent presumes that at some times the economy will grow faster and at other times it will not grow as fast. We believe this is a conservative foundation, a conservative economic forecast, much more conservative than the blue chip estimators across this country.

So what we have, Mr. Speaker, is we have the largest amount of mandatory savings in history, a significant slowdown of the nondefense discretionary, the programs that run the Government to a half a percent a year, conservative economics underlying this program, the first balanced budget since 1969, and, Mr. Speaker, the much desired and fought for tax cuts that we believe will help the American family and will also help to grow this economy.

Let me just make a point. The capital gains tax cut in our judgment is one of the things that can help build an infrastructure for America that will allow this economy to grow faster in the absence of inflation. We think that is very, very significant.

We also believe that a child tax credit is very important because it begins to send the right signals to that institution most under attack in the United States, the American family. We believe it will also restore a little justice in the area of estate relief, so as people work a lifetime to grow a business, they should not have these high levels of taxation.

Mr. Speaker, let me also make it clear that this is not the end of the